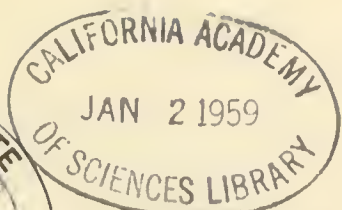


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THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

Volume 41

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Number 1

THE GULL'S FIRST FLIGHT

In January, 1919, our young Association was still announcing its meetings with postal cards, and the "'Bird Lore'", which it sent to its members, lacked Pacific Coast bird news. Already proud of our position and having to report and record our accomplishments, we realized an obligation to publish our own organ. Timidly we appointed a committee to lay out a plan for the undertaking. The operation involved deciding what should be published, how much, by whom, style and size of the issues, name, cost, etc., so the committee occupied a long period for the incubation of the problem and merely reported "progress", while the Association had to sit and wait.

One Sunday, Harold Hansen, the secretary, and C. B. Lastreto, the president, were at the Chain of Lakes on some bird work, when they suddenly realized that the notices for the coming Thursday meeting had not been prepared. It should not be that a precedent for tardiness be established. So, get cards. Where? None to be found. Envelopes and stamps? Yes, but no paper. Hansen knew of a Boy Scout with a toy press. They found him at home. Luck! Paper? Yes, but it was $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ and there was no cutter for card size. Why not our own brochure? The secretary egged the president on to a bold accomplishment of the committee's unperformed task. The young printer was put to work setting type. But what would be the heading and the name? Here is where the egg hatched and *Larus Californicus*, *The Gull*, stepped out with audacity and precocity, its down and pin-feathers emerging, even as words were being written while the printer kept up with his type. The treasurer's report (in the president's pocket) added a full page and evidence of autonomous flight. The rest was routine, folding, addressing, stamping, etc., and off through the mails flew *The Gull* to all its fellow members, who were proud to have a monthly messenger of their own.

—C. B. LASTRETO, *San Francisco, California*
Reprint from The Gull, December, 1942

AUGUST TRIP TO THE SIERRA NEVADA

The second trip this summer to the Sierra Nevada and the seventh to date was held on August 23 and 24. Fifteen members and guests attended. On Saturday morning there was a short hike up into the Sugar Bowl and Sugar Bowl proper. That afternoon we birded down at the east end of Lake Van Norden. The first record of Cedar Waxwings at Audubon Camp was made by Howard Cogswell. A Traill's Flycatcher's nest was observed down at Van Norden Meadow. The three young in the nest were banded.

The following species were seen at Sugar Bowl, The Sugar Bowl proper and the east end of Lake Van Norden: Eared Grebe, Mallard, Golden Eagle, Killdeer; Spotted, Least and Western Sandpiper; California and Ring-billed Gull, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, and Red-shafted Flicker, White-headed Woodpecker; Traill's, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green and Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper, House Wren, Robin (many), Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird; Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Solitary Vireo; Orange-crowned, Nashville, Audubon's (many), Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, Mac Gillvray's and Wilson's Warbler; Brewer's Blackbird (20 plus), Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager (13 plus), Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Cassin's Finch (many), Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin (75 plus), Green-tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco (many), Chipping Sparrow (50 plus), White-crowned Sparrow (30), Fox and Lincoln's Sparrow.

The following morning we dropped down into the arid Transition Zone to observe birds of the sagebrush habitat. The group of observers gathered at Boca Reservoir, which is about twenty miles east of Donner Summit. Interesting birds observed at this locality were the Osprey, Sage Thrasher (carrying food), Brewer's (30 plus), and Vesper Sparrow and the Gray Flycatcher which was seen on the road up to Boca Springs.

In addition, the following species were seen in the Boca area making a total of 92 species for the trip: Eared Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Teal (sp?), Shoveler, Common Merganser, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail (30 plus), American Coot, Killdeer; Spotted, Least (30 plus), and Western (25 plus) Sandpiper; American Avocet, Northern Phalarope, California and Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied and Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Horned Lark (100 plus); Violet-green (many), Tree, Barn (20 plus) Swallow; Steller's and Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker (20 plus), Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dipper; House Canyon and Rock Wren; Robin (30 plus), Mountain Bluebird; Orange-crowned, Yellow, Audubon's (30 plus), Mac Gillvray's and Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird (50 plus), Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, American Goldfinch, Green-tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco (20 plus); Chipping, White-crowned and Song Sparrow.

Interesting, too, were the mammals seen on the field trips. There were Myotis, Belding and California Ground Squirrel, Yellowbelly Marmot, Lodgepole Pine and Least Chipmunk, Sierra Pocket Gopher, Mountain Meadow Vole, Blacktail Jack Rabbit, Nuttall Cottontail, Mule Deer, Porcupine (dead) and Douglas Squirrel.

On the day following the field trip four new birds were observed by Audubon campers on a scheduled field trip: Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Swift and Pygmy Nuthatch.

—CHARLES HINES, *Co-leader & Historian*

HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Co-leader & Historian*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 54TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

The symposium on EFFECTS OF MASSIVE SPRAYING OF HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS ON WILDLIFE, SOIL ORGANISMS AND DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK was very informative and something that should be of concern to everyone. The subject was discussed by Dr. Robert L. Rudd, Economic Pathologist, University of California, Mr. Harold Peters, Technical Advisor, National Audubon Society, Dr. C. J. Wallace, Michigan State University, Mr. John L. George, Biologist Fish & Wildlife Service, Mr. A. Speake, Leader Wildlife Research, Alabama Polytechnic and Dr. Albrecht, University of Missouri. It was pointed out that direct or indirect use of indiscriminate spraying had destroyed domestic fowls, cattle, hogs, and many kinds of mammals and it is a known fact that high infertility was produced in animals and fowls causing a great loss in food production.

The fire ant eradication program was stressed. In 1958, \$2,400,000 was appropriated by the Department of Agriculture for this project but not one cent for research. For many years previous the farmers and cattlemen had taken care of the fire ant problem effectively by breaking down the ant hills with a cultivator and using an insecticide in the immediate area with very little expense.

These sprays carry with them a much higher potential of harm to human beings and wildlife through cumulative secondary poisoning than is generally recognized; the adverse effects may prove quite serious. The National Audubon Society has urgently recommended that the Department of Agriculture stop all insect control programs in which highly toxic chemicals are broadcast unless incontrovertible evidence that no serious damage to human and wildlife resources will result, becomes available. All interested persons, and we should all be interested, were urged to send letters of protest to senators and representatives against the appropriation of large sums of money to the Department of Agriculture for pesticide control until research has been done to determine the justification and the consequences of spraying.

The different services offered by National Audubon Society were dis-

cussed by members of the staff. The photo and film departments have been greatly enlarged and there is a much larger selection of slides available and films for rent. They have quite an extensive library available for research. Mr. Murray, Screen Tour Director, stressed the need for reaching out for new audiences for the screen tour lectures—make the *whole* community aware. Mr. Terres, Editor of Audubon Magazine, was quite pleased with the 5,000 requests for leaflets from Audubon, on hawks that was published in the *Reader's Digest*.

Camp programs and other Audubon activities, such as, sanctuaries and centers were reviewed by personnel involved. Each camp has something unique to offer so one could go to all three with equal interest. The centers are a great asset to their respective communities and offer youth groups wonderful opportunities. The delegates had the opportunity to visit Audubon Center, Greenwich, Connecticut. (This center was written up in a November issue of the *New Yorker*.)

An interesting workshop was conducted on how to improve our individual local groups. Mr. Mohr, the director, demonstrated his technique of teaching by taking us on a field trip in the surrounding area.

Mr. Sandy Sprunt gave a progress report on *Wading Bird Survey* which he and Mr. Robert P. Allen are working on. A fact brought out was that the largest nesting colony of American Egrets in the United States is on Marin Island.

Many fine films were shown, the outstanding one being *Flamingos On Four Continents* by Roger Tory Peterson. This will be shown at the Audubon Pacific Coast Convention in Asilomar in March.

It wasn't all work. We had some delightful social interludes. The last night, the curtain was brought down with a dinner at the Roosevelt Hotel. Mr. Albert Wool from San Jose presented his film *Home and Range* the one we saw previewed at a meeting in San Francisco. He had added and deleted scenes to a state of perfection and his accompanying lecture was outstanding.

—ROBERTA J. LONG, *Delegate, Golden Gate Audubon Society*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF

GIFT OF

Mr. Hans S. Bierrum

Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds

Contributions to this fund, which are tax deductible, should be sent to Dr. Albert Boles, Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman, 854 Longridge Road, Oakland, California.

FIELD NOTES: I observed one male Hooded Oriole in full color on the telephone wire in front of my home on the morning of December 3. This is the first Hooded Oriole I have observed in Oakland, in December.

—DONALD BROCK, *Oakland*

On November 29th, Lee and Richard Stallcup, Bill Smith and myself were at Tomales Bay and saw 7 Old-squaw. One, a female, was observed in good light at 30 feet, in the fresh water stream, at a point near where the road from Olema Marsh joins the main road from Point Reyes Station to Inverness. This is an exceptional place to find this bird.

We saw a flock of Buteos on the road to Tomales Point in which there were at least 3 Ferruginous Hawks and a Rough-legged Hawk. We, also, saw about 30 Rhinoceros Auklets, one being only a few yards from the rocks at the point.

—GUY McCASKIE, *Tahoe City*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society; from Berkeley, Mr. A. J. O'Brien, Mr. Carl Robert Praktish, Mrs. H. W. Small, Miss Margaret S. Taylor; from Daly City, Mr. C. Glen Sawyer; from Lafayette, Mrs. William Greuner, Jr.; from Oakland, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Dealey, Dr. Harley S. Fremming, Dr. John E. Hildebrand, Mrs. F. W. Marshall, Mrs. Carroll Van Ness Steffen; from San Francisco, Mr. Lewis G. Carpenter, Mrs. Ruth G. Johnson, Mrs. Xenia B. Nail.

—ROBERTA J. LONG, *Membership Chairman*

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The 492nd meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, January 15, in Berkeley. (Please, note change from second Thursday to third.) This will be the Annual Meeting with the election of officers for the coming year. Everyone is urged to attend. Guests will be welcome.

Order of events: 6 p.m. Dinner at the Shattuck Hotel, Shattuck Ave., at Allston Way, Berkeley. Price of dinner \$3.

Send reservations to: Miss Minnie Young,
2226 Prince St., Berkeley 5.

MAKE RESERVATIONS BEFORE JANUARY 10.

7 p.m. Short business meeting. Reports of officers and chairmen. Election of new officers.

7:30 p.m. Program—Mr. Russell Grater, Regional Park Naturalist, (Region 4 of the National Park Service) will give an illustrated talk on *Visitor Impact on the National Park Areas*.

All are welcome at the business meeting.

—BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

ELECTION SLATE FOR 1959

President—Mrs. Robert J. Long

Vice President—Howard L. Cogswell

Vice President—Mrs. Gladys Smith

Treasurer—Miss Margaret Milwain

Recording Secretary—Miss Patricia Triggs

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Glenn E. Hoover

Director—Paul F. Covel

FIELD TRIPS FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 12, TOMALES BAY and TOMALES POINT, if weather and road conditions permit. Members who have recently visited this area report Old-suaw and Harlequin Ducks in good numbers. These are the Hors d'Oeuvres of this trip because they are two of the rarest and best dressed sea ducks in this vicinity. Because of the wide variety of habitat covered, over one hundred species have been checked off in the past, on this trip. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at PT. REYES STATION. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends.
Leader: CHARLES HINES, OV 1-0935

Saturday, January 24, LAKE MERRITT AND JOAQUIN MILLER PARK. The lake is a good place to observe many species of water birds at close range. Some unusual birds may, also, be seen in the pens and on display in the Dome. A visit to the Rotary Natural Science Center is, also, interesting and educational. This nationally known wildlife refuge is becoming more important to this community each year. Many groups are using its facilities to learn about nature and wild life. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center near the feeding area at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, telescope and interested friends.
Leader, PAUL COVEL, KE 6-4120

Those going to Joaquin Miller Park and the Robin Roost meet at 2:00 p.m., at Sequoia Lodge on old Mountain Blvd., from which point a short hike will be led by Marie Mans, TH 8-5186, to the Robin Roost. This is the area frequently mentioned by Vice President Howard L. Cogswell. If the weather and robins cooperate, a demonstration of bird banding will be given by members of W.B.B.A., at this point.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since.. 1948

President.....	Paul F. Covell.....	2860 Delaware Street, Oakland 2, KE 6-4120
Vice President.....	Howard L. Cogswell.....	Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland 13, NE 6-1573
Vice President and Membership Chairman.....	Mrs. Roberta J. Long.....	45 Clarendon Avenue, San Francisco 14, LO 4-7767
Treasurer.....	Miss Margaret J. Milwain.....	6926 Sayre Drive, Oakland 11, OL 8-4656
Recording Secretary.....	Miss Patricia Triggs.....	230 Arch St., San Francisco, DE 3-5592
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mrs. Glenn E. Hoover.....	4488 Reinhardt Drive, Oakland 19, AN 1-3313
Director.....	A. D. Williams.....	73 Hazelwood, San Francisco, JU 7-5934
Director.....	Mrs. George C. Browne.....	2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6, TW 3-5469
Director.....	Carl Fox.....	616 The Alameda, Berkeley, LA 5-7000
Distribution Chairman.....	Miss Alice Leef.....	1050 Spruce Street, Berkeley 7, LA 4-2488
Editor.....	Mrs. Lucile Smith.....	1512 Grand Avenue, Piedmont 11, OL 4-2335
Field Trips Editor.....	Mrs. Virginia Thompson.....	22501 Bayview Ave., Hayward, LU 1-1501
Field Trips Chairman.....	Harold Peterson.....	3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland 5, LO 8-7534
Program Chairman.....	Mrs. Bonnie Smith.....	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 16, OV 1-7635

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way
 Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042